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SPECIAL FEATURE NO. MAY 22, 1978
MATTHEW SCHNEIDER/LOS ANGELES

SCIENCE STUDENT FILM AWARDS
(VOICED PIECE IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: THERE ARE ABOUT 22-THOUSAND STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING FILMMAKING AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. RECENTLY, IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, 4 OF THE MOST TALENTED OF THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE HONORED AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL STUDENT FILM AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES. VOA WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT MATTHEW SCHNEIDER HAS DETAILS IN THIS REPORT.

VOICE: ACADEMY PRESIDENT HOWARD W. KOTCH AND STEVEN SPIELBERG, THE 31 YEAR OLD DIRECTOR OF "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND," WERE AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF FILM INDUSTRY NOTABLES WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONIES AT THE ACADEMY'S BEVERLY HILLS HEADQUARTERS. THE PRESENTATION OF STUDENT OSCARS AND CASH AWARDS OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS HIGHLIGHTED A WEEKEND OF RECEPTIONS, STUDIO TOURS AND PRESS INTERVIEWS. THE STUDENT-WINNERS ALSO MET WITH LEADING MOVIE PROFESSIONALS TO LEARN ABOUT CAREERS IN THE FILM INDUSTRY.
THE ACADEMY INSTITUTED THE COMPETITION IN 1974 TO ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT FILMMAKING. THE AWARDS ARE MADE IN FOUR CATEGORIES; DRAMATIC, DOCUMENTARY, ANIMATED AND EXPERIMENTAL. THE JUDGING IS BASED ON ORIGINALITY, ENTERTAINMENT VALUE AND QUALITY OF PRODUCTION. 318 FILMS WERE ENTERED THIS YEAR. A SERIES OF NINE REGIONAL COMPETITIONS JUDGED BY COLLEGE FACULTY, LOCAL FILM PROFESSIONALS, JOURNALISTS AND CRITICS PARED THE NUMBER DOWN TO 40. THE WINNERS AND SPECIAL MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS WERE

VOICE: (CONT) CHOSEN BY ACADEMY MEMBERS BY SECRET BALLOT

THE DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WENT TO BURTON HARRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. HIS 23-MINUTE FILM, "BUTTON, "BUTTON" IS ABOUT THE MORAL DILEMMA FACED BY A HOUSEWIFE WHO STANDS TO EARN 50-THOUSAND DOLLARS -- IF SHE PUSHES A BUTTON ON A MACHINE THAT MURDERS AN UNKNOWN VICTIM BY REMOVE CONTROL. THE 21 YEAR OLD STUDENT DISCOVERED THAT PRODUCTION PROBLEMS WERE NOT THE ONLY OBSTACLE IN MAKING A FILM.

TAPE: CUT ONE HARRY

"AFTER THE FILM WAS FINISHED, THE FINAL WORK PRINT, I TOOK IT HOME TO SHOW MY PARENTS. AND THEY LIKED IT. AND I GOT BACK ON THE TRAIN TO GO BACK UP TO BRIDGEPORT, PUT THE FILM UNDER MY SEAT, GOT OFF THE TRAIN, AND LEFT IT THERE. IT WAS THE ONLY PRINT I HAD. THE SOUND-TRACKS WERE WITH IT. IF IT WAS GONE, IT WAS GONE FOR GOOD. WE SENT TELEGRAMS UP AND DOWN THE AMTRAK (RAILWAY) LINE. NO ONE COULD FIND IT. WE FINALLY OFFERED A VERY NICE REWARD. AND STILL NOTHING FOR TWO AND ONE HALF WEEKS. AND I AGED 10 YEARS IN TWO AND ONE HALF WEEKS, AFTER ALL THAT WORK. FINALLY SOMEONE UP IN THE RAILWAY OFFICE SAW AN ADVERTISEMENT WE HAD PUT IN THE "BOSTON HERALD" (NEWSPAPER) FOR A REWARD FOR THE RETURN OF THE FILM. AND HE CALLED US AND SAID 'OH YES, IT'S BEEN SITTING ON THE SHELF HERE FOR TWO WEEKS."

VOICE: "THE SIXTH WEEK" A 23 MINUTE CINEMATIC EXAMINATION OF THE FAMILY LIFE OF A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER WON THE DOCUMENTARY AWARD FOR JOHN BLOCK OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY. THE 27 YEAR OLD GRADUATE STUDENT TOLD VOA THAT HE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT FILM FINANCING THROUGH HIS EXPERIENCE.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- BLOCK

"THE FILM COST EIGHT TO NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO MAKE. THE SCHOOL, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, PROVIDED THE EQUIPMENT AND AN ALLOWANCE OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS. AND I'M A WAITER IN A RESTAURANT AND EVERY CENT I MADE IN THE RESTAURANT WENT INTO THIS FILM OVER THE LAST YEAR. I LITERALLY WORKED EVERY SINGLE NIGHT DURING THE SUMMER TO PUT TOGETHER A BUDGET."

VOICE: THE AWARD FOR EXPERIMENTAL FILM WENT TO MATTHEW PATRICK, A 22 YEAR OLD STUDENT AT HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS. THE SIX MINUTE FILM, USES ADVANCED CINEMATIC TECHNIQUES TO BLEND THE MOODS OF MUSIC WITH COLOR AND MOTION. IT'S TITLE IS "TRIPYCH" (TRIP-TICK).

TAPE: CUT THREE -- PATRICK

"THE NAME COMES FROM A TERM USED FOR RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS WHERE YOU USE THREE DIFFERENT PANELS THAT ARE IN A RELATION TO EACH OTHER. I MEAN, THEY ALMOST STAND BY THEMSELVES, BUT CONNECTED, IN A SEMI-CIRCLE AND THEY HAVE DIFFERENT THEMES BUT HAVE A CENTRAL THEME RUNNING THROUGH THEM. (IN THE FILM) I USED THREE DIFFERENT PIECES OF MUSIC AND WORKED THEM IN A RELATION TO THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF VISUAL EFFECTS, AND THEY GROW IN INCREASING COMPLEXITY AND EVOLVE INTO A TIGHTER AND MORE FINITE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP. IT GETS MORE INTO SYNC (SYNCHRONIZATION) IN A SENSE. THE IMAGES BECOME LESS SOFT. THEY BECOME HARD AND THEY MOVE. THEY WORK WITH THE IMAGES WHILE EARLY IN THE FILM IT'S VERY NEBULOUS, THE MUSIC IS ATONAL AND VERY TEXTURAL, NOT MELODIC."

VOICE: DAVID BISHOP, A 32 YEAR OLD UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRADUATE STUDENT WON THE ANIMATION AWARD WITH HIS SHARPLY SATIRICAL LOOK AT THE POPULAR "MOTHER GOOSE" NURSERY RHYMES.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- BISHOP

"JUST TO ANIMATE MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES WOULD BE SILLY. BUT TO DO THEM IN A 1978 ULTRA VIOLENT, YOU KNOW, GRAPHIC APPROACH, I THINK MAKES A, I HATE TO MAKE THIS SOUND LIKE A MESSAGE BUT, IT COMMENTS ON VIOLENCE IN THE MEDIA. SO I THOUGHT I'D ILLUSTRATE THEM THE WAY THEY REALLY ARE -- AND THESE NURSERY RHYMES ARE TOLD TO CHILDREN EVERY DAY. AND I WONDER HOW CHILDREN PICTURE THEM IN THEIR MIND. IF THEY PICTURE THEIR TAILS BEING CUT OFF AND SO FORTH. SO I THOUGHT I'D ILLUSTRATE THEM A DIFFERENT WAY, THE WAY SOMEONE MIGHT -- WELL, THE WAY I VISUALIZE THEM."

VOICE: WINNERS OF THE 1978 STUDENT ACADEMY AWARDS COMPETITION

(VOICED TAPE ENDS HERE)

VOICE: (CONT) THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY, WHICH CO-
AWARDS, WILL
SPONSORS THE ANNUAL AWARDS, WILL COMBINE THE WINNING FILMS

INTO A PRESENTATION THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FOR SCREENINGS

ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

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